

Blackout

AUTHOR: Rocco, John

ILLUSTRATOR: Rocco, John

PUBLISHER: Hperion

COPYRIGHT DATE: 2011

ART MEDIUM: Pen/ink

GENRE: Contemporary Realistic Fiction

LIFE SKILLS: caring, cooperation, problem solving, resourcefulness, friendship, flexibiltiy

SYNOPSIS: This book is based on an actual blackout in 2003, when 14 million people in New York lost power.

The city is busy until the electricity goes out. This causes them to slow down and interact with one another instead of being busy as individuals on their electric powered gadgets.

BOOKTALK: Have you ever been in a blackout? What did you do? How did it make you feel? This book is about a blackout in a city when a LOT of people lost electricity. If you have ever been in a blackout - or if you've just been curious as to what it would be like - this is the book for you.

AUTHOR:

Author's Name

John Rocco <http://www.roccoart.com/> (includes book trailer)

John Rocco was a commercial fisherman and an art director before he began illustrating children's books full time.

John Rocco studied art at the Rhode Island School of Design and the School of Visual Arts in New York City. He has worked as an animator, designer for Walt Disney Imagineering, and children's book illustrator. He lives in Brooklyn, New York, with his wife, daughter, and dog.

Other books written by the author:

Boy Were We Wrong About the Solar System

Fu Finds the Way

Moonpowder

Wolf Wolf

ILLUSTRATOR: John Rocco (see above)

CHALLENGING WORDS (...due to pronunciation, spelling and/or defining):

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: (Please include 4-6 questions)

1. Have you ever experienced a blackout? What did your family do? How did you feel when the lights came back on?
2. What would you miss during a blackout? What would you like about a blackout?
3. What would it be like to have a blackout in the summer? Compare that to a blackout in the winter.
4. What would life be like if we didn't have any electricity at any time?
5. *Blackout* is based on a real event. Watch the trailer at <http://www.rockoart.com/>
. How did the people feel about the blackout? Why?
6. Do you think they learned a lesson from this experience? What?

ACTIVITIES with CORE STANDARDS:*Language Arts:*

1. Create your own story with panels, using an online comic creator like <http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/interactives/comic/> or with pencil and paper, using templates like <http://donnayoung.org/art/comics.htm>
2. Write text to "fill in" the story. Include descriptions and dialogue.
3. Make a list of things you couldn't do during a blackout. Then make a list of things you could do.

Science:

1. Do a research project about Thomas Edison or another inventor. Include the following:
 - Why was he/she famous?
 - How did he/she change the world?
 - How has this person changed your life today?
 - What can we learn from this person's life?

The final product may be a poster or a class book.

RELATED INTERNET SITES:

Author information: <http://www.rockoart.com/>

Wonderful interview <http://blaine.org/sevenimpossiblethings/?p=2143>

Book Trailer and message from John

<http://www.rockoart.com/blackout.html>

ATTACH ACTIVITY SHEETS HERE:

Create a Word Cloud with words that describe a blackout:

http://www.abcya.com/word_clouds.htm

<http://www.rockoart.com/>

